

## **Ex Parte**

### **Outline of a Proposed “Carve-Out” For CLECs Serving Residential Rural Customers and Small Businesses**

- The FCC would define rural areas using zip codes that have a population density of 999 people per square mile or less as defined by the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau data.
- The FCC would then identify the NXXs within those zip codes and those NXXs would remain eligible for UNE-P for five years.
- In the event that an NXX serves multiple zip codes, if the population density in any of the served zip codes is greater than 999 people per square mile, the entire NXX would not be eligible for inclusion in the definition of rural areas.
- NXXs within zip codes that have a population density of 500 people per square mile or less as defined by the 2000 Census Bureau data would remain permanently eligible for UNE-P.
- In the event that the population density within a certain area increases or decreases between the decennial censuses conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a local demographic study could be performed by an interested party, at that party’s expense, and the information provided to the FCC for consideration to be included or excluded from the definition of rural areas.